

The Third Time Was a Charm for Mesquite

The modern history of the City of Mesquite began in the mid 1800's as much of the West was being explored and settled. The Old Spanish Trail and the Mormon Road passed through Paiute territory along the Virgin River. The earliest European-American settlements in the region, such as St. George and Las Vegas, sprang up as Mormon outposts at water sources along the trail. Then in 1880 a small group of pioneers, under the direction of their leaders in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, tried to irrigate and settle the Mesquite Flats on the Virgin River.

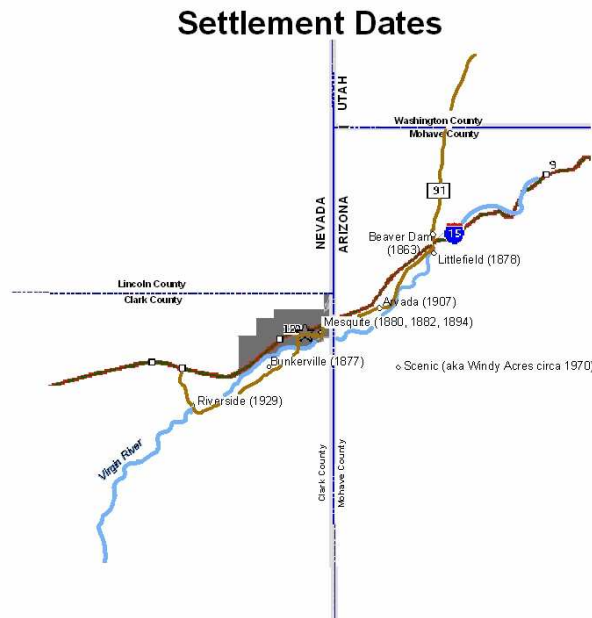
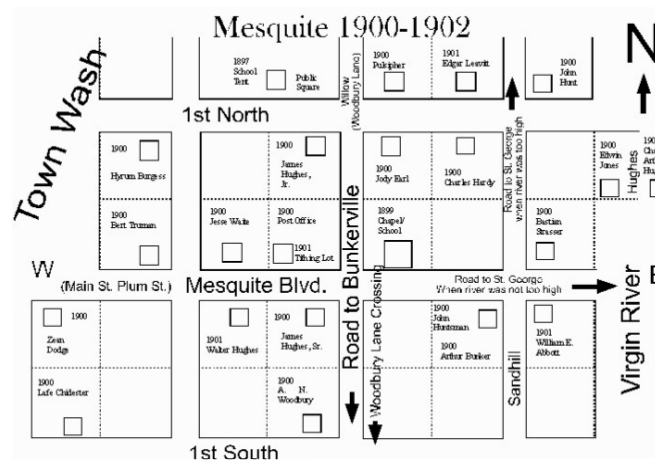
After just a few years flash floods destroyed the pioneers' network of irrigation canals and ditches and the devastated community was abandoned. A second group tried in 1882 to resettle Mesquite Flats. Dudley Leavitt, with his 5 wives and their children, eventually departed after struggling a few years. The town lay completely abandoned by 1891.

The third time was a charm. In 1894 six young families from nearby Bunkerville rebuilt the irrigation canal and established themselves permanently. Soon the successful town attracted more settlers and the name was shortened to Mesquite.

For a time cotton and raisins were the main cash crops in the community. As the automobile grew in popularity Mesquite entrepreneurs opened motels and campgrounds for travelers and tourists. Tourists increased the demand for agricultural products, such as milk and eggs, and surpluses soon made their way to markets in Las Vegas. Dairies dominated the landscape for much of the late 20th century.

Significant changes came to Mesquite after the completion of Interstate Highway 15 in the 1970's. The Western Village Motel was sold in the late 1970's to become the Peppermill Hotel and Casino, later known as the Oasis. Momentum gathered in 1984 as the town incorporated and the City Council began to lay plans for growth. In the early 1990's Primex Plastics began manufacturing operations, the Virgin River Hotel opened its doors, and the Mesquite Vistas master-planned community began developing. In the next few years other resort hotels and golf course communities were established.

The growth of Mesquite has been phenomenal as the people continue "Pioneering with Pride." Please enjoy your tour of the landmarks, and memories, of downtown Mesquite.



City of Mesquite, Nevada

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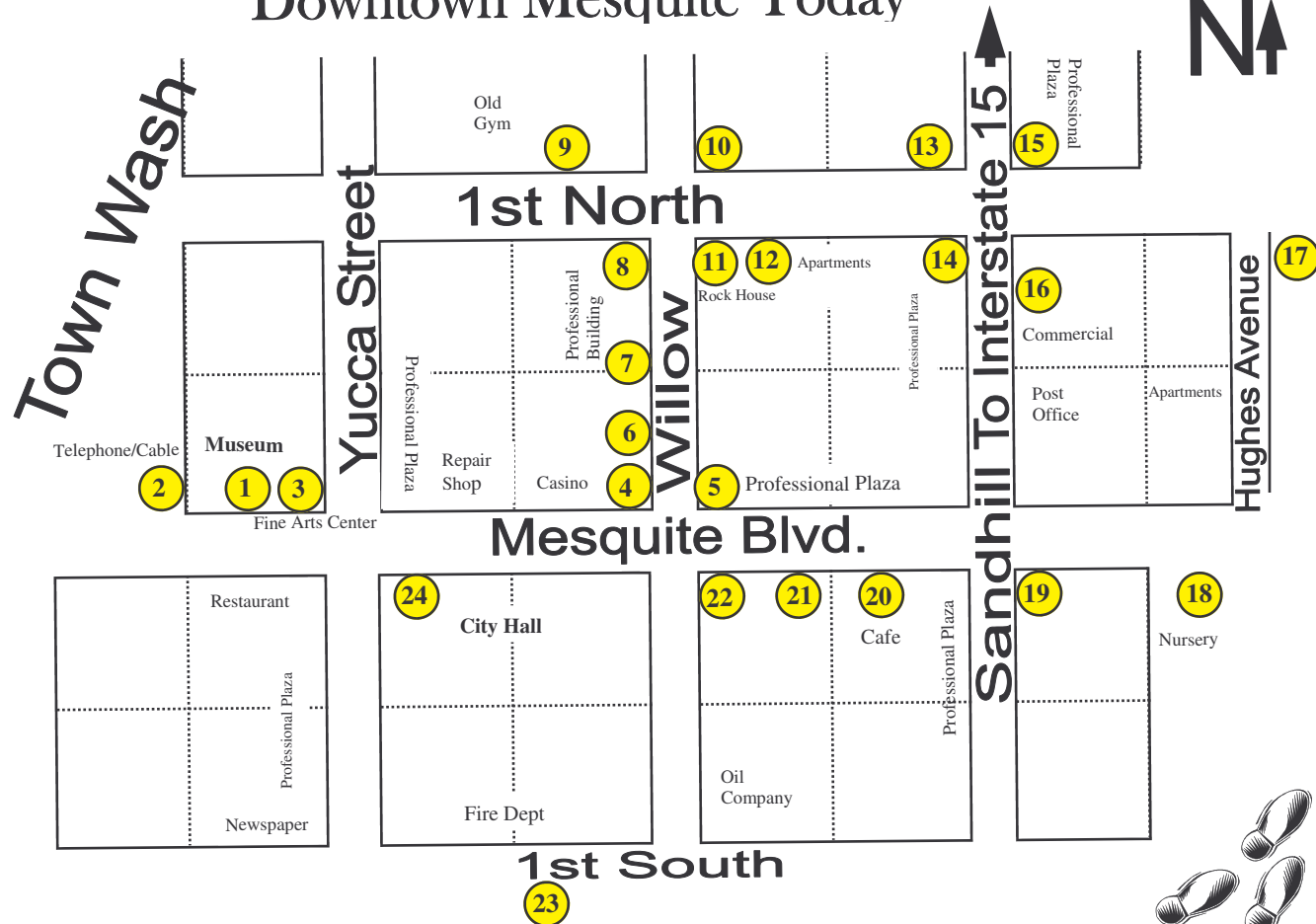


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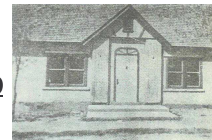
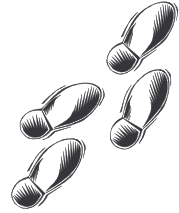
Historical Walking Tour

Downtown Mesquite Today



Walking Tour (continued)

- 11 **The Rock House, Circa 1880**
110 East 1st North—(Still Standing)
- 12 **Charles and Emma Hardy Home Circa 1894**
126 East 1st North
- 13 **Edgar and Bertha Leavitt Home, Circa 1901**
121 North Sandhill Blvd.
- 14 **Garage/Open Air Dance Hall, Circa 1922**
61 North Sandhill Blvd.
- 15 **Abram Woodbury Home, Circa 1919**
114 North Sandhill Blvd.
- 16 **Bakery/Drugstore, Circa 1940**
60 N Sandhill Blvd. (Still Standing)
- 17 **Charles Arthur Hughes Home, Circa 1901**
50 Hughes Avenue (Still Standing)
- 18 **Ervin Jones House, Circa 1932**
260 East Mesquite Blvd. (Still Standing)
- 19 **William Abbott Home/Abbott Hotel, Circa 1901**
220 East Mesquite Blvd. (Still Standing)
- 20 **Vonda's Café, Circa 1930's**
170 E. Mesquite Blvd. (Still Standing)
- 21 **Granger Hotel, Circa 1920's**
120 East Mesquite Blvd. (Still Standing)
- 22 **The Steeple Church Circa 1909**
Granger Auto Court, Circa 1922
110 East Mesquite Blvd.



Walking Tour

- 1 **Virgin Valley Heritage Museum, Circa 1938-41**
35 West Mesquite Blvd. (Still Standing)
- 2 **Egg House/Telephone Building, Circa 1929**
61 W. Mesquite Blvd.
- 3 **Abbott Way Station, Circa 1917**
Fine Arts Center, 2003
15 West Mesquite Blvd.
- 4 **The Tithing Lot 1901/Hughes Frehner Store, Circa 1924**
91 East Mesquite Blvd.
Howard Pulsipher Home, Circa 1923
71 East Mesquite Blvd. (Still Standing)
- 5 **First Chapel School Building, Circa 1899**
111 E. Mesquite Blvd.



Walking Tour (continued)

- 6 **Elward Theater, Circa 1934**
North Willow Street
- 7 **The Relief Society Building, Circa 1929**
21 N. Willow Street (Still Standing)
- 8 **James E. Hughes Home, Store, Post Office, Circa 1897**
61 North Willow Street
- 9 **Original Public Square/Tent School, Circa 1897**
Block School Circa 1922, Old Gym, Circa 1939
51 East 1st North (Still Standing)
- 10 **John David Pulsipher Home, Circa 1900**
111 North Willow Street

